



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: June 4, 2020

PROJECT Southern Expansion Defense Access Road Project Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, Virginia	NCPC FILE NUMBER 8173
	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.61(00.00)45119
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of preliminary site development plans
REVIEW AUTHORITY Federal Projects in the Environs per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)	PROPOSED ACTION Approve preliminary and final site development plans with comments
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Federal Highway Administration has submitted the Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion (ANCSE) Defense Access Roads (DAR) project, for Commission review. The project will realign Columbia Pike, modify the South Joyce Street intersection and the Columbia Pike/Washington Boulevard (Route 27) interchange, and replace Southgate Road with a new segment of South Nash Street to provide access to Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBMHH). The project will also improve multimodal capacity and safety by adding pedestrian and bicycle facilities as well as street lighting. The applicant proposes a HAWK signal system (High-Intensity Activated crossWalk) to allow pedestrians to cross Columbia Pike from the parking garage to the new ANC southern pedestrian entrance. The FHWA noted that Arlington County supports using the HAWK system to improve pedestrian safety.

As a result of the realignment, a new location for the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) maintenance compound will be added south of Columbia Pike (the South Parcel). This separate effort, which is part of the ANCSE Project, is located east of the existing Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) property and south of the realigned Columbia Pike. The South Parcel will serve as the location for a new ANC operations complex and a new parking garage for visitors to ANC and the Air Force Memorial (AFM) and for ANC employees. The road realignment and relocation of ANC facilities to the South Parcel will allow the expansion of the ANC with additional interment spaces. The Commission reviewed the Southern Expansion project as a concept review in December 2019, and a final review is expected later this summer.

Finally, the DAR project will also complement the future Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Fund Visitor Education Center (VEC), which will be in the southeast quadrant of the future Columbia Pike/South Joyce Street intersection (and former interchange area). The Commission will also review this as an independent project at some point in the future.

KEY INFORMATION

- The proposed project includes the realignment of Columbia Pike (Route 244) which is under the authority of Arlington County Government. The realigned roadway project includes property under the jurisdiction of Arlington County, the United States government and the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Columbia Pike is an arterial roadway in Arlington County connecting points west of the county to Pentagon City and Crystal City which are south of this area.
- The Columbia Pike realignment will allow for more interment space at Arlington National Cemetery and improve vehicular movement in the Arlington transportation network.
- The ANC Southern Expansion project is a separate but related project for lands adjacent to the realignment to accommodate new interment space and operational facilities.
- The realignment will provide four travel lanes on Columbia Pike, a ten-foot cycle pathway north of the road and eight-foot sidewalks on both sides of the roadway.
- The HAWK signal system is proposed as a pedestrian crossing for Columbia Pike from the new parking garage to the Arlington National Cemetery new southern pedestrian entrance.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary and final site development plans for the Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion Defense Access Roadway project which consists of the realignment of Columbia Pike and reconfigurations of its interchange with Washington Boulevard and the Joyce Street intersection.

Supports the realignment of Columbia Pike to improve roadway network connectivity while allowing for the increase in interment space at Arlington National Cemetery.

Supports the inclusion of a separated ten-foot cycle path and two eight-foot sidewalks along Columbia Pike to enhance and connect to the existing and planned transportation network.

Commends the proposed use of the HAWK signal (High-Intensity Activated crossWalk) system as a pedestrian crossing for Columbia Pike as it will stop vehicular traffic and allow safe pedestrian movements between the new parking garage and the Arlington National Cemetery new southern pedestrian entrance.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	- None
Remaining actions (anticipated)	- None

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

Overall, staff supports the proposed realignment as the project will improve the transportation network, including pedestrian, vehicular and bicycle movements. Further, the realignment will help Arlington National Cemetery meet its expansion goals by allowing for the relocation of facilities to accommodate new interment areas. Therefore, staff recommends that the Commission **approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion Defense Access Roadway project which consists of the realignment of Columbia Pike, a new road connection to Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall and reconfigurations of the Columbia Pike interchange with Washington Boulevard and the Joyce Street intersection.**

Analysis

This project will improve Columbia Pike's connectivity between different parts of the Arlington County. The project components include realignment of Columbia Pike, a new roadway to connect Columbia Pike to Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall, a new intersection with Joyce Road and an improved interchange with Washington Boulevard, also known as Route 27. Staff is very supportive of this project as it will improve the existing vehicular network, connect the existing and proposed bicycle network, provide for a safe pedestrian crossing of Columbia Pike and allow more interment space at Arlington National Cemetery. This last reason aligns with the goals for ANC expansion.

There are multimodal improvements included with this project, including those to the vehicular network, the bicycle network and pedestrian network. The roadway improvements include straightening Columbia Pike and reconfiguring the interchange with Washington Boulevard. Straightening the roadway will allow for better sightlines and easier turning movements. The addition of a separated, ten-foot wide cycle path on the north side of Columbia Pike will allow for connections to the existing bike routes into Pentagon City to the south and future connection to the bike path along Washington Boulevard and points north. Next are the improvements to the pedestrian network which includes two, eight-foot sidewalks on both sides of Columbia Pike, and a portion of Joyce Street. Staff is very supportive of these improvements as well as the proposed pedestrian crossing of Columbia Pike which is also included with this project. Since there will be a new public parking garage and operations center south of Columbia Pike, the safe crossing of the roadway at this location is paramount. This project introduces a new HAWK signal system that will provide this safe pedestrian crossing as it includes a pedestrian activated, red light that is intended to stop vehicles traveling on Columbia Pike.

Along with multimodal improvements, this project will also support the associated ANC Southern Expansion project, which is to maximize interment and inurnment space at the cemetery. This roadway project will allow for additional space because the road itself currently cuts-off part of

the contiguous land that could be used for the cemetery. The ANC cannot use non-contiguous land area for burial space. Under this plan, Columbia Pike will be realigned and straightened thereby increasing the contiguous land area and allowing for ANC to maximize interment and inurnment space.

Supports the realignment of Columbia Pike which will improve roadway network connectivity while allowing for the increase in interment space at Arlington National Cemetery.

Supports the inclusion of a separated ten-foot cycle path and two eight-foot sidewalks along Columbia Pike to enhance and connect to the existing and planned transportation network.

Commends the proposed use of the HAWK signal (High-Intensity Activated crossWalk) system as a pedestrian crossing for Columbia Pike as it will stop vehicular traffic and allow safe pedestrian movements between the new parking garage and the Arlington National Cemetery new southern pedestrian entrance.

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

Staff finds that this project is not inconsistent with the relevant policies contained within the Urban Design, Transportation, Federal Environment, and Historic Preservation Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.

National Historic Preservation Act

USACE released the Final EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on August 30, 2019 for public review. Comments received on the Draft FONSI were responded to and included in release of the Final FONSI. ANC signed the Final FONSI December 9, 2019 following completion of the Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement between the State Historic Preservation Officer, Air Force District of Washington, and ANC.

National Environmental Policy Act

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) began the NEPA process in 2016 with an initial public scoping meeting. Pursuant to its responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act, the USACE developed the *Environmental Assessment for the Southern Expansion and Associated Roadway Realignment* to evaluate the impacts associated with this project. The stated purpose of this project is to "...meet the forecasted interment/inurnment demands of eligible veterans to preserve ANC as an active military cemetery, and to create an opportunity to increase multimodal capacity on this portion of Columbia Pike." The USACE considered four alternatives in the EA it developed for this project:

a no action alternative; the preferred alternative which relocated Operations Complex south of Columbia Pike with underpass; the maintain the Operations Complex with underpass alternative; and the maintain the Operations Complex without underpass alternative. The preferred alternative allowed for the largest contiguous area for in-ground interments while providing a realigned Columbia Pike and improved multimodal connectivity. As this project is in the environs, NCPC does not have an independent NEPA responsibility.

The USACE released the Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in August 2019. FHWA adopted the Final EA and issued its own FONSI in March 2020, following completion of an Interchange Modification Report (IMR) Update and VDOT approval of the IMR Update. Arlington County also provided a letter of support for the project as well.

CONSULTATION

The FHWA has been in close coordination with ANC, NCPC, the Commission of Fine Arts, VDOT and Arlington County government since 2016, however it has been in consultation with Arlington County and VDOT regarding this roadway realignment since 2014.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The FHWA has not submitted this project to the Commission of Fine Arts.

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online at www.ncpc.gov:

- Submission Package

Prepared by Carlton Hart
05/28/2020

POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)

Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion Defense Access Road Project

Arlington, Virginia

Approval of Preliminary and Final Site Development Plans

United States Department of Transportation

Project Summary

Commission Meeting Date: June 4, 2020

NCPC Review Authority: 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

Applicant Request: Approval of Preliminary Site Development Plans

Session: Consent Calendar

NCPC Review Officer: Carlton Hart

NCPC File Number: 8173

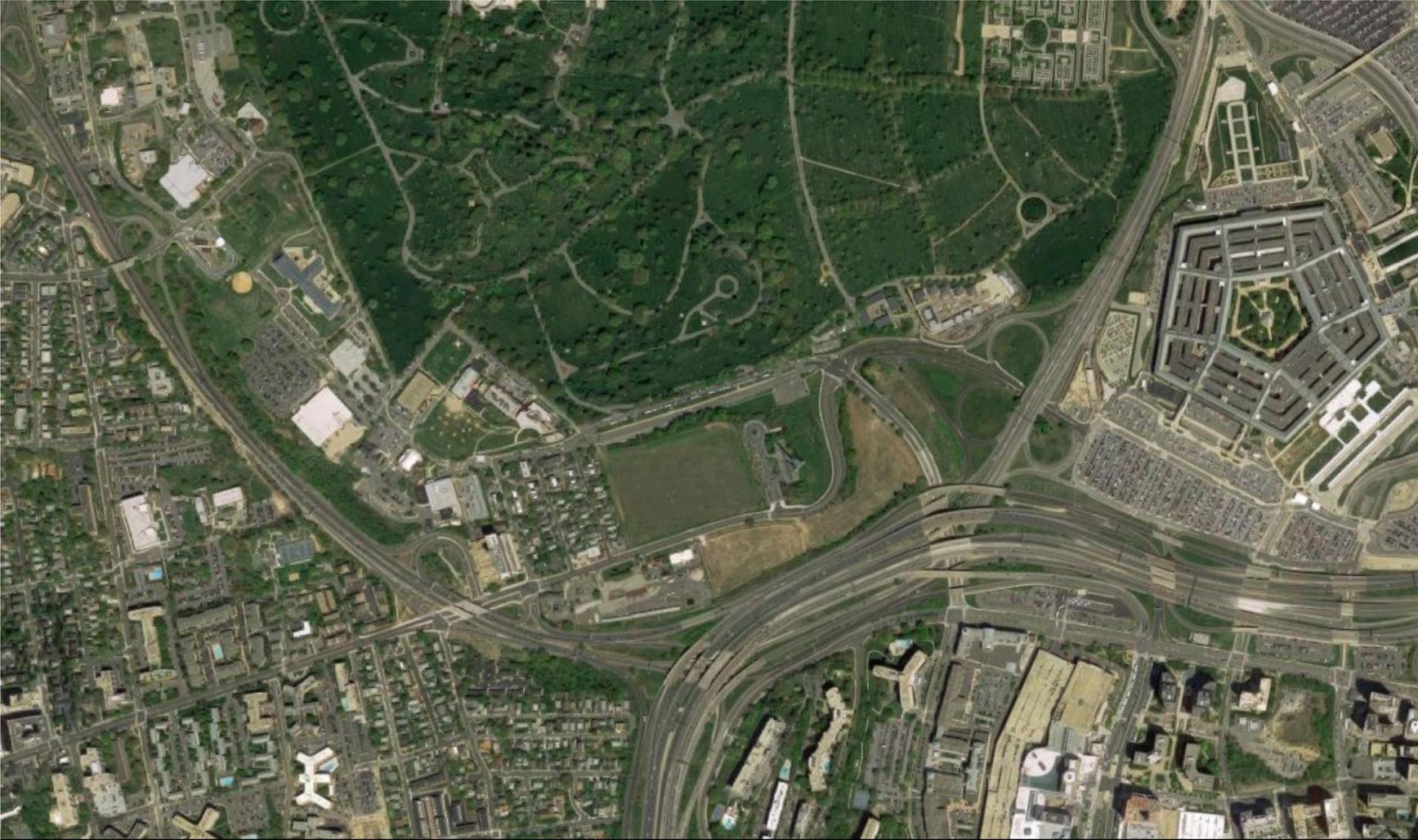
Project Summary:

The Federal Highway Administration has submitted preliminary and final site plans for the Arlington National Southern Expansion (ANCSE) Defense Access Roads (DAR) project, for Commission review. It will enable the expansion of Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) to the south for increasing interment spaces for future burials. The project will realign Columbia Pike (Route 244) with a new intersection with S. Joyce Street further to the south; reconfigure the west side of the Columbia Pike and Washington Boulevard (Route 27) interchange from a clover leaf to a tight diamond interchange; and replace Southgate Road with a new segment of S. Nash Street for providing access to and from Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall (JBMHH) and Southgate Road at Foxcroft Heights.

The DAR project will complement the future Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Fund (PMF) Visitor Education Center (VEC), which will be located in the southeast quadrant of the future Columbia Pike/S. Joyce Street intersection (and former interchange area).

The DAR project will support the development of the South Parcel of the ANC Southern Expansion Project (South Parcel), which is designated as a site east of the existing Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) property and south of the realigned Columbia Pike. The South Parcel will serve as the location for a new ANC operations complex (Operations Complex) and a new parking garage for visitors to ANC and the Air Force Memorial (AFM) and for ANC employees. A crossing of Columbia Pike will be developed with a pedestrian activated signal to be used by visitors arriving at the new parking garage.

Site Location

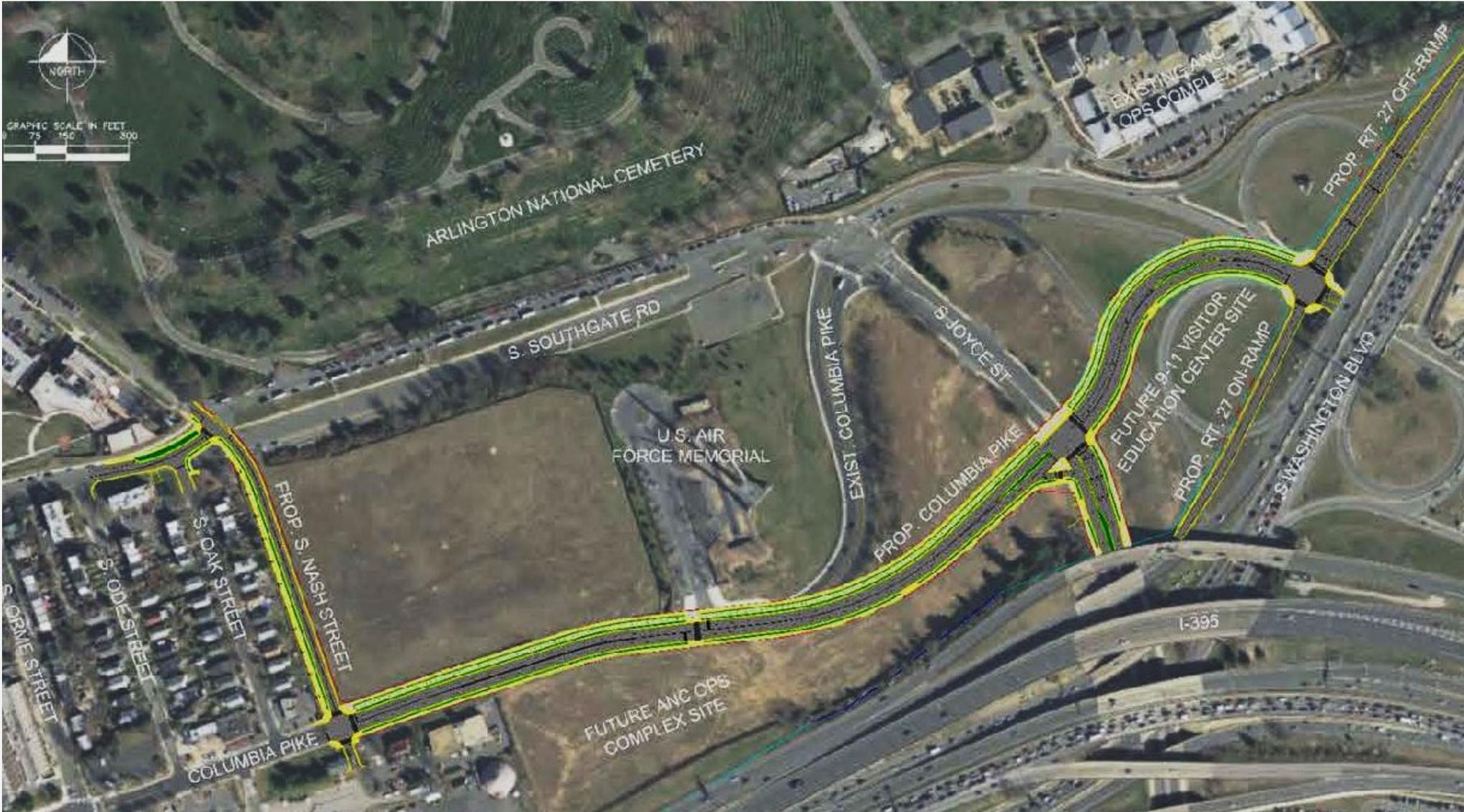


Location Map

Defense Access Road with ANC Southern Expansion



Proposed Defense Access Road



HAWK Signal Control System



Credit: US DOT website

HAWK Signal includes:

- Modified traffic signals
- Pedestrian activation
- Full stop for vehicles in both directions is required when activated
- Signage
- Striped crosswalk

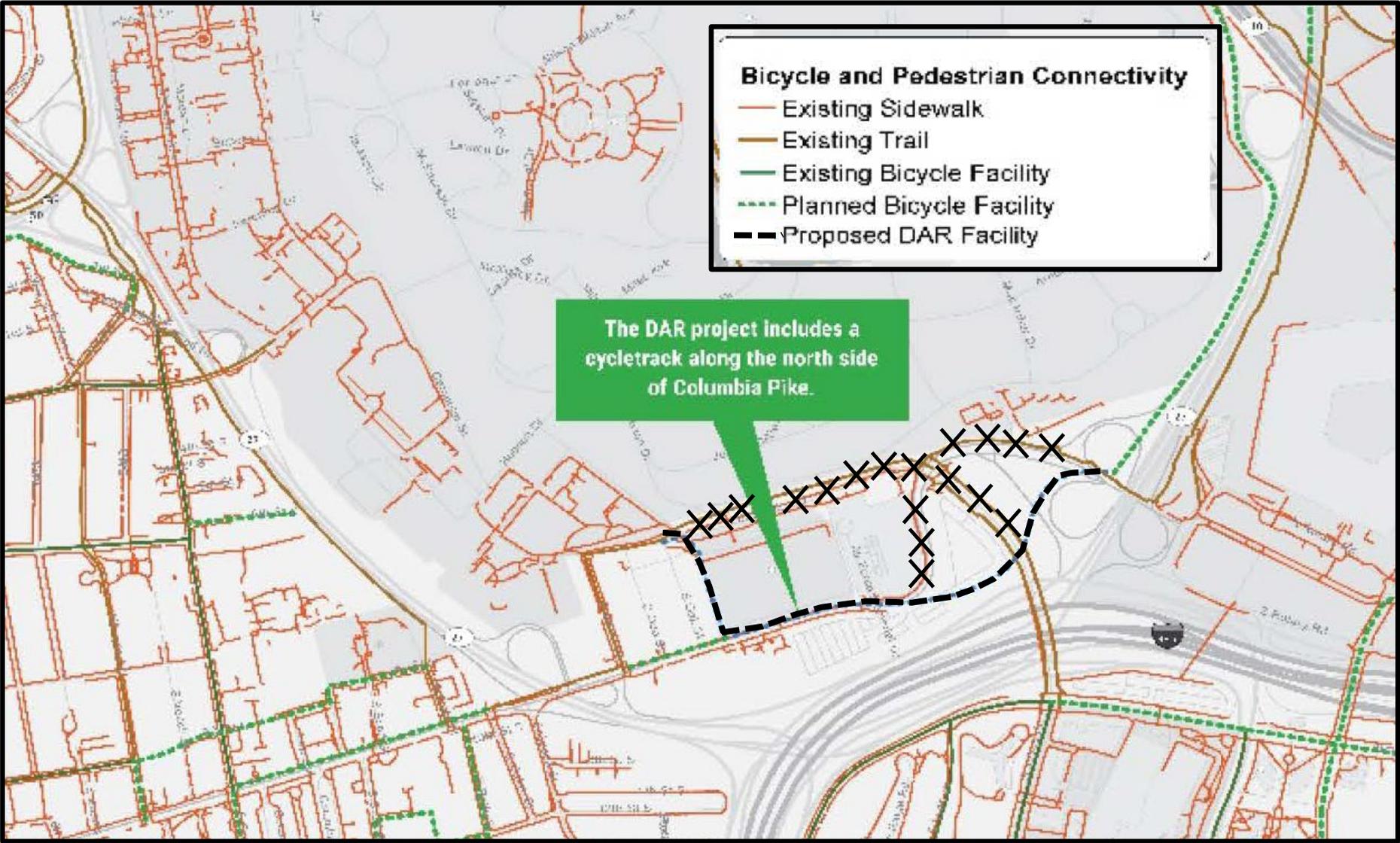
Additional Information:

- Used in Arlington County at several mid-block crossings
- Proposed mid-block crossing of Columbia Pike will connect the new parking garage with Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion

Defense Access Road w/ Proposed ANC Southern Expansion



Bicycle and Pedestrian Network



Proposed Roadway - Typical Section

